

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 7 and ending at page 2, line 20, as follows.

--An image forming apparatus of an electrophotographic type normally includes an image heating apparatus or fixing apparatus which receives a transfer material having toner electrostatically attracted thereon, the toner being made of resin material, magnetic material, coloring material or the like. In the fixing device, the transfer material is nipped and fed by a nip formed by heating means (roller, endless belt member or the like) and pressing means (roller, endless belt member or the like) which are press-contacted to each other, during which the toner is fused and fixed by heat and pressure. The present invention relates also to a heating apparatus of a heating belt type and an image forming apparatus provided with a heating apparatus comprising a flexible belt (film) which is movable and is heated by heating means, a back-up member supporting the belt, a pressing member for forming the nip in cooperation cooperation with the back-up member with the belt therebetween, wherein a material to be heated is introduced into between the belt and the pressing member at the nip so that material to be heated is heated by the heat of the belt while being fed. The heating apparatus of the heating belt type is used as an image heating device such as a fixing device for fixing an unfixed toner image formation on the recording material in an image forming apparatus (copying machine, facsimile machine, printer or the like) of an electrophotographic type or the like on a recording material by heat and pressure, a temporary fixing device for temporarily fixing the unfixed image on the recording material, or a surface property improving device for improving a surface property of the recording material carrying the fixed image. In addition to the image heating

device, the present invention is applicable to heating means for heating a sheet-like member, for example, in a heat-drying device for evaporating water contained in paper.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 9 and ending at line 17, as follows.

--In order to downsize the fixing device while assuring the high throughput in the full-color fixing fixing device, it is important to assure a large nip width while not decreasing the heat supply speed. However, as an enlarging method for the nip width, there are only the increase of the roller diameter and the increase of the thickness of the heat resistive elastic member. Therefore, there is a difficulty or limit in meeting the desire.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 9 and ending at line 18, as follows.

--In the fixing device of the fixing belt type, a large nip width can be easily assured as compared with the heating roller type by reducing the hardness of the elastic fixing roller. In addition, since the fixing belt having a small thermal capacity is heated by the heating roller, the fixing belt can be quickly heated, and the recording material can be heated without reduction of the heat supply speed. thus, the warming-up time can be reduced, and a high speed printing is possible with a small size structure.--